

# Mason Matters!

FALL 2015

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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## A Message From Supervisor Gross

### Special Interest Articles:

- *How to Detect a Failing Private Sanitary Sewer Lateral Line*
- *Public Safety and School Bonds Are Approved*
- *DMV Plans Move to Mason District*
- *Safeguard Against the Flu*
- *Land Use News*
- *VDOT Offers Winter Resources and Safety Tips*
- *Community Notes*
- *Holiday Town Gathering December 3*

LOOK FOR **MASON MATTERS!** THE TELEVISION SHOW

on Cable Channel 16

EVERY THURSDAY AT 7 P.M.

EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M.

DAILY ON THE WEB AT [WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON](http://WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON)

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as Mason District Supervisor. I am deeply grateful for the confidence and trust placed in me once again, and my staff and I look forward to serving you to address community issues, large or small. Please do not hesitate to contact my office about any county-related matter of interest to you.

Public education always has been an overarching priority of the Board of Supervisors, and next spring's budget debates likely will be lively and robust. Balancing the needs of Fairfax County's school system with all the other services that also are county responsibilities is a huge challenge, and the Lines of Business (LOBs) review will help both the Board of Supervisors and the School Board identify potential cost savings for programs and taxpayers. The LOBs review will begin in January after the newly elected board members take their seats. Those meetings are public, and will be conducted at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, in Fairfax. More information will be posted on [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb) in coming weeks.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has taken the lead to seek restoration of state education funding that has been cut since 2008, and fully fund the Standards of Quality and the Standards of Accreditation, as recommended by the State Board of Education. The lack of adequate state funding has a negative effect, not just on Fairfax, but on all 95 of Virginia's counties, large or small, urban or rural. Underfunding also places Virginia at a disadvantage in workforce training and economic development. The state must step up to its responsibilities for public education, and Governor Terry McAuliffe agreed when I met with him in October to discuss his pending biennial budget, which will be released in mid-December. Education is the key to success for every child in the Commonwealth, who deserve nothing less than our unwavering advocacy for more state funding for public education.

As winter weather approaches, please take time to prepare for sudden changes in precipitation and temperature. Put new batteries in your smoke alarms, make sure that last year's snow shovel still is in good shape, have your car serviced for the cold weather, and inspect your fireplace chimney for cracks or critters. You also can subscribe to the county's emergency information program at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts/) to receive alerts via an electronic device.

The 20th Annual Mason District Holiday Town Gathering will be held on Thursday, December 3, at 7 p.m., at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Special musical guests will be the WAAC Band, a collection of faculty, students, and friends of Virginia Tech's Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center (WAAC) in Alexandria. I hope you will join your neighbors to kick off the holiday season, and enjoy an evening of light entertainment, refreshments, and my report about Mason District's activities in 2015. You may even win a door prize! I look forward to seeing you there.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Penny Gross".

## How to Detect and What To Do About a Failing Private Sanitary Sewer Lateral Line

Property owners whose homes and businesses were built through the 1970s may have Orangeburg (OB) or cast iron pipe lateral sewer lines, which is the pipe that connects private property to the county's main sewer line. Although property owners are responsible for repairs to their lateral sewer lines, Fairfax County has information about how to prevent a wastewater backup, how to detect when a lateral pipe may be failing, and what to do if you experience a sanitary sewer backup. Failing private sewer lateral pipes may display the following symptoms:

- Frequent clogged lines
- Backup in the shower or bathtub
- Gurgling noises from the toilet
- Tree root invasion - Pipe collapse - Sewer Odor
- Indentations in the ground where the sewer line is located.

If you experience a sanitary sewer backup, and believe it may be in the county sewer main line, call the county's 24-hour wastewater trouble response center at 703-323-1211 or 703-239-8444; TTY 703-239-8498. Staff members will determine whether the sewer line is a county or private responsibility. If it is private, property owners would contact a licensed plumber about inspection, assessment, cleaning, and repair of private sewer laterals. Information about repairing private sanitary sewer lateral lines, the wastewater trouble center, and preventing backups is available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/private-sewer-lateral-problems-and-repair-methods.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/private-sewer-lateral-problems-and-repair-methods.htm), and at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/preventing\\_backups.htm#backup](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/preventing_backups.htm#backup), and [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/trouble.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/trouble.htm).

## Virginia DMV Plans Move to Mason District

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles is planning to relocate its South Four Mile Run office to Barcroft Plaza in Mason District. The new DMV Customer Service Center (CSC) will provide DMV-related services, but also include other state government transactions: Virginia birth certificates; marriage, divorce, and death records; hunting and fishing licenses; boat titling and registration; EZ Pass purchases; and voter registration services.

The Barcroft Plaza shopping center is zoned C-6 (Community Retail Commercial District), which permits a number of commercial and retail uses, including public uses, by right. It is neither DMV's practice nor a state requirement to notify the public or local elected officials, and DMV does not hold public forums prior to relocating a customer service center. The landlord is responsible for ensuring that tenants fit the business use for the space under lease. Renovations of the space are underway, and DMV staff have indicated that the new center will open in late spring.

Although the Board of Supervisors has no role in the siting of state facilities, Supervisor Gross has expressed concern about ingress and egress at the new DMV facility, and she will meet with DMV officials in December to discuss access, parking, and way-finding for the new facility, and how DMV can address and mitigate those issues.

## Public Safety and School Bonds Approved for Renovations Projects

On November 3, 2015, voters approved Fairfax County Public Safety and School Bonds, which are the principal means by which Fairfax County raises funds to address on-going needs in the county without raising taxes. The Public Safety Bond consists of \$51 million to renovate or replace five aging fire stations, and \$100 million to renovate or build five police facilities. In Mason District, the public safety bond includes \$10 million for the Edsall Road Fire Station #26; \$23 million for the Franconia District Police Station, which serves portions of the Mason District; and \$24 million for the Police Tactical Operations Facility at Pine Ridge. The School Bond includes \$310 million to renovate nine elementary schools, two middle schools, and two high schools in the county. In Mason District, the school bond includes \$975,427 to start planning the renovation of Annandale Terrace Elementary School. Additional information about the bonds is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond).



On June 29, Mason District Supervisor Gross presented medals for Women's Softball at the 2015 World Police and Fire Games. During the games, held from June 26 - July 5, Fairfax County public safety personnel won 41 Gold, 53 Silver, and 46 Bronze medals.

Photo Courtesy of Michael O'Brien

## Safeguard Against the Flu



Prepare yourself, and your family, for the cold and flu season! A flu shot can help minimize the chance of spreading the flu virus in our community. This is vital because not everyone can receive a flu vaccine, and some individuals may be at greater risk of flu-related complications and death. To learn what you need to know about the upcoming flu season, visit the

Fairfax County Health Department's Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/flu/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/flu/), or call 703-246-2411, TTY 711. Information about the 2015-2016 flu season and the seasonal vaccination is available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at [www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm).



## Land Use News



### New Bike Lanes Coming to Mason District -

You asked and we listened. Earlier this year, Fairfax County Department of Transportation staff held community meetings for two projects to add bike lanes to Annandale Road and Evergreen Lane. Community response strongly supported these measures. Each of these two projects reduces the existing travel lane width to repurpose the extra space for bike lanes. No travel lanes will be removed. The bike lanes will be added during the restriping process after the Virginia Department of Transportation, a state agency, repaves each road. Additional information about county bike projects is available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/bikeprojects.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/bikeprojects.htm), or calling 703-324-BIKE (2453).



### Lincolnia Planning District Begins Phase II in 2016 -

The Lincolnia Planning District comprises approximately 2,100 acres, bounded by the City of Alexandria to the east; Lincolnia Road and Old Columbia Pike to the north; Little River Turnpike, Indian Run Stream Valley, and Interstate 395 to the west; and the Norfolk Southern Railway/Virginia Railway Express right-of-way to the south. Phase I of the study examined the previous planning district recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Plan and updated it. On October 20, 2015, the Board of Supervisors adopted revisions to the Comprehensive Plan guidance for the Lincolnia Planning District to reflect existing conditions, recent planning efforts, and editorial changes.

Phase II currently is scheduled to begin in January of 2016. This phase consists of two objectives. The first is to evaluate whether portions of the Lincolnia Planning District should become a Community Business Center (CBC). The second is to consider whether associated changes to land use and/or intensity recommendations are suitable. Additional information about the Lincolnia Planning District Study can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/lincolnia/). Questions relating to Phase II may be directed to Faheem Darab by e-mail at [Ahmad.Darab@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Ahmad.Darab@fairfaxcounty.gov), or call 703-324-1351.



Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross, in her capacity as president of the Virginia Association of Counties, has a private meeting with Governor Terry McAuliffe about securing more state funding for Virginia Schools, with Fairfax County Public Schools at the top of the list.

Photo Courtesy of Governor McAuliffe's Office

## Need Documents Notarized?

Notary Services are available in the office of Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross during business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about what you need to bring, or to schedule an appointment with one of the two notaries, please call the office at 703-256-7717, or send an e-mail to [mason@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mason@fairfaxcounty.gov).



## VDOT Offers Winter Resources and Safety Tips

Before the first flake falls, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the state agency that controls and maintains the roads in Fairfax County and clears our streets of snow, offers the following resources and safety tips for residents and drivers while at home or work.

### Resources for Information about Road Conditions

- Call 511 for road conditions
- Visit [www.511virginia.org](http://www.511virginia.org) for real time traffic updates and road conditions, or use the [511app](http://www.511app)
- Follow [@511northernva](https://twitter.com/511northernva) on Twitter for road conditions and accidents
- Visit [www.YouTube.com/VDOTweb](http://www.YouTube.com/VDOTweb) for snow removal tips
- Visit [www.VirginiaDOT.org](http://www.VirginiaDOT.org) for news and road conditions
- E-Mail [novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov) or call 1-800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623) to report unplowed roads
- Status of plowing in Northern Virginia [www.vdotplows.org](http://www.vdotplows.org)

### Safety Tips for Residents and Drivers

- When shoveling driveways, leave the last 5 ft. of snow at the curb until after the plow has passed
- Shovel to the right while facing the road
- Park on the odd numbered side of the street
- Park in driveways (wherever possible)
- Allow room for the plow to come through
- Do not pass snow plow trucks when they are plowing
- Allow plow trucks back into the main line from turn lanes
- Stay at least 100 ft. behind a plow truck
- Have a shovel, blanket, water, and food/snacks in your vehicle
- Please stay off the roads, if you can
- Telework

## Community Notes

➤ The Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) is a volunteer organization serving neighbors in dire need, including furniture. Please call 703-256-9513 and ACCA will pick up your donated furniture and give you a tax deductible receipt. The most needed items are mattresses/box springs (single, double, or queen size) sofas (not sleeper types), kitchen/dining room tables, and chairs, chests of drawers/dressers, coffee tables, end tables, and microwaves.

➤ AARP volunteers will return in **2016** to provide free tax help to residents from **February 1 to April 18** at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. **The schedule is: Mondays and Thursdays 1- 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; and Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** All returns will be filed electronically. For more information about AARP Tax Aide, visit [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide), or call 1-888-227-7669.

➤ Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program is in operation now through March 31, 2016, with a "no turn-away" policy during freezing temperatures at all [emergency homeless shelters](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/homeless-shelters). If you see someone at risk, call 911. Information about the Hypothermia Prevention Program is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/hypothermia-prevention/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/hypothermia-prevention/). The program is managed by the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 333 in Fairfax. For more information or to help, call 703-324-9492, or visit the Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless).

## Mason District's Holiday Town Gathering

**Thursday, December 3 at 7 p.m.**

Mason District Governmental Center, Main Community Room  
6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale

Start the holiday season with an evening of live entertainment, light refreshments, and information about accomplishments in Mason District. Featured musical guests are the WAAC Band, a collection of faculty, students, and friends of Virginia Tech's Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center (WAAC) in Alexandria. You may also win a door prize!

### Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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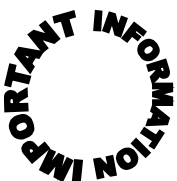
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